

## Memorial to Honor Fallen Horsemen

What started as a normal Air National Guard annual training deployment — two weeks of meaningful work and then home to families — ended in tragedy for the 203rd RED HORSE Flight of Virginia Beach, VA.

Eighteen of its members had just completed two weeks of training at Hurlburt Field, FL, where they had utilized their structural, electrical and utility skills on a site preparation project. They were on their way home

March 3 when their plane, an Army C-23 Sherpa, crashed killing all on board — the 18 RED HORSE engineers and three Florida Army National Guard aircrew members.

Our engineering community has not experienced a loss of this magnitude except during times of war. We join our brethren in their sorrow over this tragic loss, and in remembering those who gave all. May their sacrifice serve to remind us of the high costs we endure in exchange for freedom.

The 203rd RHF has set up a fund for anyone wishing to donate toward construction of a memorial at Camp Pendleton, VA. All funds will be used for the memorial, with any excess going to the families of the victims. Donations may be sent to: 203rd RED HORSE Memorial Fund, c/o Maj Pete Garner, P.O. Box 180, Virginia Beach, VA 23458. (Col Raymond H. Willcocks, HQ ANG)

## New AFSOC Civil Engineer

Col Richard P. Parker, formerly the Deputy Civil Engineer, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, CO, has succeeded Col Michael F. Hrapla as The Civil Engineer, Air Force Special

Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, FL. Colonel Hrapla retired in June.

Colonel Parker has held various positions at base, major command and Air Staff levels, including chief,

Program Development Branch, Engineering Division, Office of The Civil Engineer, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon and commander, 820th RED HORSE Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV.

## CE Among Air National Guard's Top Enlisted

MSgt Christine Clay from the 159th Civil Engineer Squadron, New Orleans, LA, is among the Air National Guard's top four enlisted people for 2001. Sergeant Clay was selected as Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Sergeant Clay, who is originally from Sioux City, IA, is the full-time facility manager and, militarily, the engineering superintendent for the 159th CES at the Joint Reserve Base on the Naval Air Station in New Orleans. Helping to create things from the ground up is what inspires this member of the Air Guard's civil engineering team. "I like to manage buildings" explained Clay who joined the Air Guard in 1988 and now supervises 15 people and manages 67 buildings in five locations. "I enjoy progressing from concept to construction to having people actually living and working in a building."

The other three Outstanding ANG Airmen are: SSgt Brandon Pearce, Airman of the Year; SSgt Peter Bowden, Noncommissioned

Officer of the Year; and MSgt Katie Hines, first sergeant of the year.

Maj Gen Paul Weaver Jr., Air National Guard director, said the four outstanding airmen "exemplify the talent, positive leadership and dedication" of the U.S. military and the National Guard. "We are fortunate to have a system that allows us to recognize those who go above and beyond in their careers and personal lives," Weaver said.

The four were honored during a ceremony at Andrews AFB, MD, June 12. They also spent

a week in the nation's capital, meeting with National Guard and other Department of Defense officials.

(Compiled from news releases by MSgt Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau.)



MSgt Christine Clay, 159th CES, was recently selected as the Air National Guard's Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Presenting the award to Sergeant Clay are Maj Gen Paul A. Weaver Jr., Director, Air National Guard, and CMSgt Valerie D. Benton, Command Chief Master Sergeant. (Courtesy photo)

## Air Force Bases Honored by White House

Five Air Force bases recently received the White House's Closing the Circle Awards, which are presented to federal agencies that demonstrate outstanding achievement in areas including environmental innovation, recycling and waste prevention. The Air Force winners of the Closing the Circle Awards are:

- Model Facility Demonstration: Grand Forks AFB, ND
- Recycling: Eglin AFB, FL and Barksdale AFB, LA
- Waste Prevention: Fairchild AFB, WA and Ramstein AB, Germany

The five Air Force bases were among 39 award winners selected

from about 200 nominations from departments and agencies throughout the federal government. The winners were honored in a ceremony June 12 in the Presidential Hall at the Old Executive Building next to the White House.

"This year's honorees exemplify our federal workforce commitment to preserve the environment and precious resources by increasing the purchase of green products and services, reducing the generation of wastes and establishing highly effective environmental management programs at their locations," said Juan D. Lopez, acting chief of staff of the White House Task Force on

Recycling. "These local heroes have looked beyond the status quo to blaze new paths in waste and pollution prevention that will truly benefit our future generations."

The awards are presented annually by the White House to the most innovative programs implementing the objectives of Executive Order 13101, "Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition." The executive order was designed to expand and strengthen the Federal government's recycling and green purchasing efforts. *(From an Office of the Federal Environment Executive release)*

## Offutt wins DoD environmental award

Offutt Air Force Base, NE, is the recipient of a 2000 Secretary of Defense Environmental Security Award, which recognizes the best environmental programs in the Department of Defense. Eight awards were presented at this year's ceremony on May 3.

The base received the Environmental Restoration-Installation award for saving more than \$2.1

million through new technology demonstrations and proactive management of their restoration program. Included was implementation of a "bio-wall" system that successfully prevented chlorinated solvents from migrating into the groundwater, abandoning 51 groundwater monitoring wells saving \$600,000 per year, and elimination of the need for a \$500,000 subsur-

face investigation through a no-cost demonstration project using laser-induced fluorescence chemical sensor technology.

Offutt was automatically nominated for the DoD competition as a recipient of a 2000 Air Force General Thomas D. White Environmental Award. *(From a U.S. Department of Defense News Release)*

## Charleston CE Awarded for Good IDEA

SSgt Stephen Daggett, from the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, SC, was recently awarded \$10,000 for a suggestion he submitted to the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness, or IDEA, program.

Sergeant Daggett, a readiness technician, said his suggestion to consolidate readiness materials on a CD-ROM came to him when his unit deployed to Albania. "We had to carry our own equipment. We ended up paying more for excess baggage than we did for our tickets," Daggett said.

Almost all of the publications, forms and checklists needed to per-

form the readiness job were already electronic, according to Daggett. "I was tired of having to download the publications every time and check for updates," he said. "I like to play around with the Web anyway, it just seemed logical to put all of this information on a disc and run it in a Web-based application."

Submitting the suggestion to the IDEA program wasn't Daggett's intention, he said. "Someone else told me I should submit it."

Daggett has made copies of the program already and passed the idea on to other bases. "Some of the other bases used it during IG (Inspector General) evaluations and got high marks for using it," he said.

As for spending the money, Daggett said he plans to pay off some bills. "I'll still have some left over after that," he said.

All told, Daggett's suggestion should save the Air Force \$87,602, according to the analysis submitted by HQ Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency.

The IDEA program isn't used often enough, according to Daggett. "More people should use it for any idea they might have that could save money. Mine was a pretty straightforward idea, I just put it in there." *(SrA Melanie Streeter, 437th Air Wing Public Affairs)*

## CE Makes AFA Team of the Year

TSgt Matthew Shryock, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL, was one of five individuals representing Air Force Special Operations Command who were recently selected for the 2001 Air Force Association Team of the Year Award.

Sergeant Shryock, was honored at a presentation ceremony in May in Washington DC, along with MSgt Brian Douglas, 24th Special Tactics

Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, NC; TSgt John Sparr, 193rd Aircraft Generation Squadron, Harrisburg International Airport, PA; SSgt Danny Hedrick, stationed in the Pacific Air Forces theater; and SSgt Travis West, stationed in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe theater.

Each year, the AFA recognizes the accomplishments and contributions made by Air Force enlisted members in specific career fields.

This year, AFA elected to spotlight members of AFSOC, specifically these five who represent the civil engineering, flight engineering, transportation, crew chief and pararescue career fields.

The selections were based on achievements the individuals made during the 2000 calendar year, said Air Force Personnel Center officials. *(From an Air Force Personnel Center News Service release)*

## Eielson's 354th CES Named Best in Snow Removal

The 354th Civil Engineer Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, AK, received the Colonel Bernt Balchen/Wilfred M. Post Award during the International Aviation Snow Symposium April 25th in Buffalo, NY.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement in base and airfield snow and ice control. The 28th CES, Ellsworth AFB, SD, was runner-up.

Eielson received more than 45 inches of snowfall during the 2000 snow season, and the 354th CES' snow and ice control team performed an astonishing 70 ice control operations. They kept de-icing chemical use to a bare minimum by emphasizing more environmentally friendly mechanical control methods.

Total vigilance ensured base streets remained open and more than 4,500 aircraft launches were generated without delay despite the subarctic environment, which is the most severe and challenging one for

snow and ice removal in the Air Force.

The team persevered through a major storm in January when snow fell continuously for five days. The result was more than 21 inches of wet, heavy snow — the greatest single accumulation of snow in five years. Personnel worked 12-hour shifts, 14 days straight, constantly clearing airfield and priority streets. Their tireless efforts enabled 120 mission sorties and ensured safe base driving conditions.

The Balchen/Post award, which is sponsored by the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives, is presented

annually to the outstanding snow removal team in one military and four commercial airport categories. *(SMSgt Clyde Young, HQ AFCEA)*



The Balchen/Post award is presented to SMSgt Dale Fowler, 354th CES horizontal manager, by Mrs. Jeanne Oliver, president, Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives. *(Photo courtesy 354th CES)*



### NHL Game Features Air Force Quartet

*(From left to right)* Majors Mike Rits, Scott Bridgeman, Lowell Nelson and Darren Gibbs, all from the Office of The Civil Engineer, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, sing the National Anthem at a Washington Capitals vs. New York Rangers hockey game in Washington DC in March. The group, known as the "Air Force Civil Engineer Quartet," got its start at a unit holiday party. *(Photo by SSgt Angela Stafford)*



## AFCEE Celebrates a Decade of Service

The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, TX, commemorated its 10th anniversary July 23.

AFCEE, a field operating agency of the Office of The Civil Engineer, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, is the Air Force's premier environmental services agency and center of expertise. It offers commanders a full range of technical and professional services in the areas of environmental restoration, pollution prevention, environmental compliance, natural

and cultural resources conservation, facility design and construction management and comprehensive planning.

AFCEE is also the center of expertise for the Air Force's military family housing privatization program and recently instituted a range support unit to study issues associated with air training ranges. In addition, its Technology Transfer Division field tests and studies new technologies that may help speed up or improve environmental cleanup efforts.

The center started out with only a handful of people in 1991 but within a year had in place a full array of environmental contracts. Its concentration initially was on cleanup work at 19 installations affected by the first two rounds of the Base Closure and Realignment process.

AFCEE has developed into a billion-dollar enterprise, with a program totaling more than \$436 million in environmental restoration work alone during the last fiscal year. It now employs more than 360 civilians and 50 military members. In addition to its headquarters staff at Brooks, the agency maintains three Regional Environmental Offices in Atlanta, Dallas and San Francisco.

"Our workload has grown tremendously and we've got more significant work coming in the next few years," said Mr. Gary M. Erickson, AFCEE's director. "It's a real healthy sign of the confidence that the senior Air Force leadership and our customers have in us. AFCEE also has arrived at a point where we can really offer what our customers need from us."

Col Sam Garcia, executive director and military commander, noted that AFCEE was going through a generational change, with some of the original center staffers moving on to the next stage in their careers.

"This summer will be a special one for us," he said. "We're starting to see a change of leadership in our mid-level management positions where much of the creative thinking that characterizes AFCEE's approach to business really takes place."

The colonel added that AFCEE continues to evolve and "get smarter" in the process.

"The environmental mission, obviously, has been our main focus, but AFCEE is seeing ways in which we can benefit the Air Force community more fully. We're stepping up to those challenges as well," he said. *(AFCEE Public Affairs)*



JB Cole, who is known as the "father" of AFCEE, spoke at the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence's 10th Anniversary Ceremony July 23. Mr. Cole chartered the field operating agency for the Air Force, and served as its first director.

### Earth Week 2001

Tom Billings, Recycling Center supervisor for the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, U.K., shows second graders from Lakenheath's elementary school what happens to the cans collected around base. The tour was conducted to help educate students on the importance of recycling and to help kick off Earth Week activities. *(Photo by TSgt Paul R. Caron Jr.)*

